



### SYNOPSIS

Féis Rois commissioned composer and pianist, James Ross to write new music to be performed by a wide range of young people, including those who were already accomplished traditional musicians and those who, perhaps due to a disability, had not participated in regular music-making and/or performance before.

The final performance was the result of a series of inspirational composition, music-making and improvisation workshops in St Clement's School, Dingwall. The pupils involved in the project worked over several weeks with musicians James Ross (piano), Alpha Munro (fiddle), Mairead Green (accordion) and Matilda Brown (Drake Music Scotland technology specialist). Creating, presenting and evaluating skills were developed throughout the project. All of the young musicians contributed to the creative process and to the structure of the final two pieces of music, *High Five* and *Spring March*.

### AIMS

- To meet the overarching experiences and outcomes for the Expressive Arts and to enable every pupil to achieve across the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence
- To encourage self-expression by giving pupils the opportunity to engage in a creative process and present their work to others
- To develop tailored, pupil-centred work through creative, inclusive teaching and learning, using a cross-curricular approach
- To give pupils the opportunity to learn new skills and to share those skills with others
- To increase access and widen participation in the traditional arts
- To encourage the development of self esteem and interpersonal skills through playing music together
- To generate new partnerships between Féis Rois, schools and other arts organisations

### PARTNERS

- St. Clement's School
- Féis Rois  
[www.feisrois.org](http://www.feisrois.org)
- Drake Music Scotland  
[www.drakemusicscotland.org](http://www.drakemusicscotland.org)

### PARTICIPANTS

- The pupils of St Clement's School, Dingwall
- Young musicians (secondary school pupils) who participate in Féis Rois's informal education programme.

### PROJECT LENGTH

- 12 half-day workshops in school and a final performance for parents, families and friends.

### FUNDING

- Creative Scotland: Youth Music Initiative





## Project Outcomes:

# CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE FOUR CAPACITIES

This project enabled the young participants to become:

### SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS

The project supported pupils to:

- Use technology for learning – pupils used sound beams and switches to make music
- Think creatively and independently – pupils were encouraged to come up with their own musical ideas and these were included in the performance
- Learn independently and as part of a group – when pupils learned to use their own piece of technology they worked together to create a group performance reaching a high standard of achievement

### RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

- Pupils participated responsibly in this creative project
- The pupils developed their knowledge and understanding of traditional Scottish music



### CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS

Participation in this project meant that pupils had:

- An ambition to create their own piece of music for a performance
- A sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being

**Pupils were able to:**

- Relate well to others and manage themselves when playing their own individual parts of the music
- Develop and communicate their own ideas as the compositions took shape
- Achieve success in a new area of activity

### EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS

The project supported pupils to:

- Communicate in different ways (playing music) and in different settings (a performance outwith the school)
- Work in partnership and in teams playing music as a group
- Take the initiative and lead. Pupils took it in turns to conduct different parts of the music

*Music is a very important part of the curriculum in St. Clements and this project was enjoyed by all who took part. The musicians involved worked very well with everyone in school to ensure minimum disruption but maximum enjoyment & participation. For those pupils who took part it was an invaluable experience – raising self-esteem & confidence to high levels and being able to perform to a wider audience within the local community was excellent. St. Clements School was delighted & privileged to be part of this project.*

**Maureen Mackenzie, Head Teacher**

*The active participation of children with disabilities in creating and performing new music is worthwhile almost by definition. In this particular case, the value of the experience was optimised for all concerned – including the audience – by the artistic excellence of the featured compositions, along with that of the musicians involved, of the project's developmental process, and of both Fèis Rois and Drake Music Scotland's specialist practice.*

**Sue Wilson, Specialist Advisor, Creative Scotland**